

In the Claims:

Claims 47 and 48 have been canceled.

Claims 44 has been amended as follows:

39. (Once amended) An isolated polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or,
 - (c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);~~
 - (d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~
 - (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.
40. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 39 having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide, shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or,
 - (c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);~~
 - (d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide, shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

41. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 39 having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to:
(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);
(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or,
(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);~~
(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~
(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

42. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 39 having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:
(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);
(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or,
(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);~~

(d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4), lacking its associated signal peptide; or

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

43. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 39 having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or,

(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4);~~

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4); lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

44. (Once amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 4);

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 4), lacking its associated signal peptide; or,

(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 4);~~

- (d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 4), lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;
wherein the encoded polypeptide is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

45. (Previously added) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 4).

46. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 4); lacking its associated signal peptide.

47-48. (Cancel).

49. (Previously added) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256.

50. (Previously added) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 39 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

51. (Previously added) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 50, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.